

CITY OF CHICOPEE



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Stanley W. Kulig, P.E. Superintendent

Sewer Commission Meeting January 20, 2010 Thomas Hamel Chief Operator

Present:

Sewer Commissioners:

Fred Goehring, Chairman

Gerald Fecteau
Joseph Carriveau

Carl Roy, Vice-Chairman, Excused

Chung Liu, Excused

Also Present: Thomas Hamel, Chief Operator, WPC

Mr. & Mrs. Dario Ribadeneyra of 149 Grattan Street

Mr. & Mrs. Ribadeneyra are here tonight to request an abatement when the hose on their washing machine broke causing a flood in their basement. Mr. & Mrs. Ribadeneyra originally requested an abatement for the whole amount of the sewer fee on their most recent bill which was \$132.44, however after averaging what their normal bill is during this period, it showed that the bill in question was \$50.13 more than the average.

Dario Ribadeneyra – 140 Grattan Street – Water Pipe Break - \$50.13, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau, approved 3-0.

Tom Hamel gave the Commissioners copies of the meeting minutes from November 4, 2009 and November 23, 2009 to take home and review for the next meeting.

Sewer and Storm Fee Revenues to date total \$4,778,143 and Tom Hamel said that we are about \$16,000 behind projection.

Next, Tom Hamel presented the Commissioners with copies of the Fiscal Year 2011 proposed budget. Tom explained that the FY'11 budget totals \$10,161,548.64 which is \$1,064,443.72 more than the FY'10 budget and this increase mainly comes from bond payments, medical insurance, pensions, property insurance, vehicle insurance, workers compensation insurance and medicare tax. Tom Hamel also explained that he is proposing sewer rate fee increases for FY'11 and FY'12, which will be discussed and voted on at a separate meeting.

Mr. Goehring questioned whether they could cut costs anywhere in order to reduce the budget and Tom informed the Commissioners that they could cut costs in any line item.

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Water Pollution Control

However, the bonds and principle payments must be made whether the budget is passed or not and things like insurance payments have to be made. Also, Tom informed them that \$1,028,000 out of the \$1,064,443.72 increase is for the bond and insurance payments.

Mr. Fecteau then questioned where the \$79,642.75 increase for Treatment Plant expenses comes from. Tom went through the budget with the Commissioners and showed them the increases by line item, which consists of Repairs to Equipment, Education, Advertising, Registration Fees, Insurance-Other, Insurance-Vehicles and Insurance-Property.

Mr. Fecteau motioned to accept the FY'11 budget of \$10,161,548.64, seconded by Mr. Carriveau, accepted 3-0.

Tom Hamel gave the Commissioners copies of a draft correspondence to the Law Department in regards to changes to the Sewer Use Ordinance.

Commitments:

December 2009 - Sewer & Storm - \$715,836.83, Mr. Fecteau motioned to accept, seconded by Mr. Carriveau, approved 3-0.

January 2010 - Sewer & Storm - \$882,095.92, Mr. Fecteau motioned to accept, seconded by Mr. Carriveau, approved 3-0.

Tom Hamel presented the Commissioners with an appropriation letter to the Mayor that he had prepared on their behalf. He explained that the City Council approved the addition of a Project Supervisor position to the DPW, Public Utilities Division. In order to fill this position around March 1, 2010 and have the available funds to complete the fiscal year, the Sewer Commission has to request a transfer of funds from the Sewer Fund Balance to the Wastewater Salary Line Item for Project Supervisor in the amount of \$24,000.00. Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve to forward the letter to the Mayor, seconded by Mr. Carriveau, forwarded to the Mayor 3-0.

Tom Hamel read the Commissioners a letter that was sent to the Mayor from the Environmental Protection Agency, New England Division announcing that the Chicopee Wastewater Treatment Plant would be receiving a 2009 Region EPA Wastewater Treatment Plant Excellence Award at the annual New England Water Environment Association Trade Show. The award is to acknowledge the excellence in operation and maintenance of the Chicopee Wastewater Treatment Plant performed by Tom Hamel and all of the staff. Tom then informed the Commissioners that they are welcome to attend an appreciation luncheon that Stanley, Tom and Roy will be hosting on February 16, 2010 as a thank you to all of the Wastewater employees for their hard work.

Abatements:

Colvest/Center Street Chicopee LLC – 38 Hampden Street – Charged twice for the EPA Storm Fee -\$50.00, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Steven & Rose-Ali Sykes – 100 Fletcher Circle – New Pool - \$30.00, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Joseph Audet – 37 Hawthorn Street – Stuck Meter - \$375.05, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Richard Beliveau – 125 Poplar Street – Stuck Meter - \$28.74, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Sandra Mailhott – 390 New Ludlow Road – Stuck Meter - \$581.56, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Alice Murray – 38 Davenport Street – Stuck Meter - \$61.27, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Jaclyn Machaffie – 105 Oakwood Street – Misread Meter - \$65.56, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Napoleon Rougeau – 68 Trilby Avenue – Billing Error - \$341.59, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Jason Gregoire – 268 Szetela Drive – Billing Error - \$252.00, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Kenneth Filipiak – 85-87 Trilby Avenue – Estimated Reading - \$148.75, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Martin Denette – 196 Pendleton Avenue – Estimated Reading - \$25.20, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Jung Tai/Frank Chin - 1559 Westover Road - Estimated Reading - \$113.42, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Gary & Jacqueline Szymaniak – 129 Labelle Circle – Estimated Reading - \$348.67, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Andrea McKinney – 21 Loveland Terrace – Estimated Reading - \$46.38, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Lois Delisle – 1559 Westover Road - Estimated Reading - \$123.53, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Jason & Michelle Wilkonson – 27 Martha Street – Estimated Reading - \$21.97, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Krystofer Rivers – 97 Columba Street – Estimated Reading - \$535.40, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Thomas & Victoria Gajowski – 554 McKinstry Avenue - Estimated Reading - \$277.68, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Jarid Cusson – 833 Pendleton Avenue – Estimated Reading - \$246.33, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

David Vickers – 44 Lyman Road – Estimated Reading - \$307.78, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Chicopee Parks Department – 44 Peters Street - Estimated Reading - \$6.24, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Chicopee Parks Department – 90 Call Street - Estimated Reading - \$2,709.84, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Paul Perron -335 New Ludlow Road - Leaking Faucet - \$116.75, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Richard Bobrowski – 150 Skeele Street – Vandalism of Pipes & Water Heater - \$18.30, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Leo Grimard – 20 Ann Street – Water Heater Break - \$33.74, Mr. Fecteau motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau approved 3-0.

Maoxiong Zheng – 43-45 Montello Road – Unusually High Bill – No Requested Amount, Mr. Fecteau motioned to table the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carriveau, tabled 3-0.

The Sewer Commissioners decided to table the abatement to allow the resident to provided documentation or attend the next meeting and explain why their usage was so high and why they should receive an abatement. Tom Hamel informed the Commissioners that he would send Mr. Zheng a letter requesting documentation.

Next, Tom Hamel informed the Commissioners that he sent a correspondence to the Law Department in regards to the abatement for Victor Anop of 103 Bridle Path Road. Mr. Anop had originally attended the November 4, 2009 Sewer Commission Meeting to request an abatement for the difference in sewer rates for his estimated bills over the past five years. Mr. Anop had continually denied the Water Department access to his water meter over a period of five years. Once the Water Department finally did gain access and read his meter, he was charged for a usage of 67,691 cubic feet which represents the current usage and the usage that he was under billed for over the past five years. Tom asked that the Law Department review a letter submitted to the Sewer Commission by Mr. Anop, the abatement request and the Sewer Commission minutes of November 4, 2009 and November 23, 2009 in order to direct the Sewer Commission on how to recalculate Mr. Anop's bills going back five years.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2010 at 5:30p.m. to discuss Sewer and EPA Storm rate increases.

Mr. Fecteau motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:40p.m., seconded by Mr. Carriveau, adjourned 3-0.

Accorded 3-0/28/10

Copies: Mayor

City Council

City Clerk

Stanley Kulig